



Presidents Report

It is hard to believe another year has passed...

I am excited by the growth and development that I have witnessed for One Village over the past financial year. Young people especially are taking a much greater role within the organisation. With the appointment of program directors following the annual general meeting, I am certain that One Village will continue to prove that from the smallest seed grows change.

There will also be an Australian Development Director to explore the possibility of One Village working within Indigenous communities in Australia. This is a very significant step for One Village and it has been received with much enthusiasm.

Scholarship Scheme

This year One Village supported a further 8 girls with their secondary education. This means there are now 24 girls empowered through the scholarship scheme. The scheme is also achieving its second objective of changing community values toward female education. This year, for the first time in Namwendwa Primary School female enrolment outnumbered male enrolment.

Sponsors within Australia have also been extremely impressed by the form, detailed content, and personal feel of the information and update packages that they receive.

There is a need for improvement, however, in regard to sponsors receiving the girls' information packs in an appropriate time period. More attention must be given to time organisation and communication between the Australian and Ugandan committees in the collection of the girls' information and posting and downloading the information ready for distribution.

In the next financial year, there should also be a focus on considerations for the future possibilities of the program as the original 8 Scholarship Girls will complete Secondary 4 at the end of 2009.

The Infant School

The construction of the infant school was a slow and frustrating project, but has proved to be extremely successfully. Since the completion of the building, the school has been 100% self-sustainable. Florence still directs the school, and also employs 4 other teachers. The school currently has over 150 pupils and is continuing to grow.

For future building projects it will be essential to have a much more set timeline in place. So each step, for example, laying the foundations, is celebrated in stages when achieved by its deadline. This will help to ensure that the budget is stuck to as the funds would also be distributed in conjunction with the stages and timeline.



Agricultural Program

It was the recommendation of the Ugandan One Village committee prior to the last annual general meeting that the agricultural program be made a priority so I am extremely pleased that this has gone ahead as planned.

Progress is under way in Namwendwa with the purchasing of the tools, preparing of the land and the first stages of the construction of the storage room/cooking space.

I have no doubt that the project will achieve its primary objective of providing each student with a healthy lunch every day. In turn, malnutrition rates will decrease and the students will learn valuable life skills. The sustainability of this program is also strong as it is entirely executed by Namwendwa Primary School, students, staff and the community at large.

For the next financial year, a monitor and evaluation program is needed. Nutrition packs are also a priority.

A significant moment of the year is the support of Bio Distributors. Bio Distributors are an organic vegan food distribution company who this year paid \$6000 for advertisement on our website as they recognised the value of our agricultural program. This is a credit to One Village for our strong values and extremely effective programs.

Fundraising

Westminster and St John's Grammar School continued to play a significant role in fundraising for One Village over the past year. Westminster now runs a One Village seed group within the school. Over the next year, this concept should be explored within other schools, both Primary and Secondary. This role is largely dependent on the Schools Involvement Director.

One Village has also continued a relationship with many rotary clubs throughout SA. These relationships should be strengthened even further over the next year, with the possibility of different clubs adopting different projects.

The largest One Village fundraisers over the past year were the 2 movie nights. These are quite easy to organise, and are risk-free but in the future we need to expand our network so we are not targeting the same people.

Administration

The Australian Executive committee has not been functioning as effectively as it could. This is related to my own lack of knowledge and experience in directing meetings and efficiently delegating roles. Personally, I recognise that this is an area where I need to improve for the continued growth of One Village. I feel that the creation of program directors is a positive step in the right direction.

I am grateful to the outgoing executive committee for your hard work, support and especially, your patience. Thank you.

Thank you also to everyone who continues to share my passion and vision. Together, we can, and will, achieve great things.

Nikki Lovell
-President